

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE****MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 10 SEPTEMBER 1998 AT
1000 HRS IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS,
LONDON ROAD, KILMARNOCK**

PRESENT: Councillors Eric Jackson, Drew McIntyre, Ronald Brailsford, Provost Robert Stirling, Councillors Jim O'Neill, Ann Hay, Daniel Coffey, David Fulton, George Turnbull, Robert McDill, Eric Ross, Jimmy Boyd and John Smith.

ATTENDING: Fiona Lees, Depute Chief Executive; Stephen Chorley, Director of Development Services; John Mulgrew, Director of Education; Alex McPhee, Acting Director of Finance; John Hillis, Director of Housing; Iain McLachlan, Director of Personnel Services; Douglas Bulloch, Director of Social Work; Barbara Haughan, Director of Support Services; Helen Dick, Depute Director of Finance; Roddy Wallace, Head of Administration; John Griffiths, Head of Leisure Services; Kate McVey, Head of Legal Services; Douglas Campbell, Head of Public Relations and Marketing; and Julie Armstrong, Senior Administrative Officer.

APOLOGIES: Councillors Irene Reeves, Douglas Reid, Wilma Doyle, Kathleen Hall, Jim Kelly, David Sneller and Tommy Farrell.

CHAIR: Councillor Eric Jackson, Vice-Chair.

SUB-COMMITTEE MINUTES

1. There were submitted and approved subject to the undernoted amendment, both as correct records and in respect of any recommendations contained therein the undernoted Sub-Committee Minutes (circulated) as contained in Appendices I to X of these Minutes, viz:-
 - 1.1 **CHAIR'S SUB-COMMITTEE OF 21 APRIL 1998** - Appendix I.
 - 1.2 **SPECIAL MEMBERS SERVICES AND CIVIC CEREMONIAL SUB-COMMITTEE OF 4 JUNE 1998** - Appendix II.
 - 1.3 **CHAIR'S SUB-COMMITTEE OF 17 JUNE 1998** - Appendix III.
Agreed that the Minute be changed to show that the employee involved was an employee from the Finance Department.
 - 1.4 **CHAIR'S SUB-COMMITTEE OF 18 JUNE 1998** - Appendix IV.
 - 1.5 **APPEALS SUB-COMMITTEE OF 19 JUNE 1998** - Appendix V.
 - 1.6 **PERSONNEL AND PROPERTY SUB-COMMITTEE OF 25 AUGUST 1998** - Appendix VI.
 - 1.7 **MEMBERS SERVICES AND CIVIC CEREMONIAL SUB-COMMITTEE OF 26 AUGUST 1998** - Appendix VII.
 - 1.8 **DECENTRALISATION AD HOC SUB-COMMITTEE OF 27 AUGUST 1998** - Appendix VIII.
 - 1.9 **CHAIR'S SUB-COMMITTEE OF 27 AUGUST 1998** - Appendix IX.

1.10 QUEENS DRIVE KILMARNOCK AD HOC SUB-COMMITTEE OF 1 SEPTEMBER 1998 - Appendix X.

Declaration of Interest

Councillors O'Neill and McIntyre declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 1.10.

REVIEW OF FINANCIAL CONTROLS (Item 5, Page 3555)

2. There was submitted a report dated 4 September 1998 (circulated) by the Acting Director of Finance which advised the Committee of the outcome of reviews carried out in relation to financial systems and which sought approval of new arrangements for the provision of financial services across the Council.

It was agreed:

- (i) to note the contents of the reports as shown in Appendices I and II of the report;
- (ii) to approve the adoption of the proposed new arrangements for the provision of financial services across the Council as shown in Appendix III of the report; and
- (iii) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

**BUDGETARY CONTROL SUMMARY STATEMENT - GENERAL SERVICES
REVENUE ACCOUNT TO 17 JULY 1998 (PERIOD 4)**

3. There was submitted a report dated 3 September 1998 (circulated) by the Acting Director of Finance on the current budgetary control position of the General Services Revenue Account for the period ended 17 July 1998 (Period 4).

It was agreed to note the contents of the report pending the mid-year review of the budget by this Committee.

**BUDGETARY CONTROL SUMMARY STATEMENT - HOUSING REVENUE
ACCOUNT TO 17 JULY 1998 (PERIOD 4)**

4. There was submitted and noted a joint report dated 18 August 1998 (circulated) by the Acting Director of Finance and Director of Housing on the current budgetary control position and the projected out-turn for the year for the Housing Revenue Account for the period ended 17 July 1998 (Period 4).

**BUDGETARY CONTROL SUMMARY STATEMENTS TO
17 JULY 1998 (PERIOD 4)**

5. There was submitted and noted the undernoted reports on the current budgetary control position for the period ended 17 July 1998 (Period 4).

5.1 POLICY AND RESOURCES (CENTRAL) - Report dated 27 August 1998 (circulated) by the Acting Director of Finance.

5.2 POLICY AND RESOURCES (SUPPORT) - Joint report dated 26 August 1998 (circulated) by the Acting Director of Finance and the Director of Support Services.

5.3 POLICY AND RESOURCES (URBAN AID PROJECTS) - Report dated 3 September 1998 (circulated) by the Acting Director of Finance.

CAPITALISATION OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY COSTS

6. There was submitted a report (circulated) by the Director of Support Services which requested approval from the Committee to the capitalisation of £69,000 for essential IT expenditure in 1998/99.

It was agreed:

- (i) to approve the capitalisation of additional expenditure of £51,500 for the provision of intermediate IT contingency arrangements to ensure the continuity of service for key corporate systems such as electronic mail, debtors, creditors etc;
- (ii) to approve the capitalisation of unforeseen additional expenditure of £17,500 relating to a requirement to increase data through-put on the corporate-wide area data network to support the continued implementation of corporate IT systems and the relocation of staff; and
- (iii) otherwise to note the content of the report.

STATISTICAL INFORMATION ON REVENUE COLLECTION

7. There was submitted and noted a report dated 3 September 1998 (circulated) by the Acting Director of Finance which updated Members on the position of the Council with regard to billing and collection of local taxes as at 31 July 1998.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT STATUTORY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

8. There was submitted and noted a report dated 3 September 1998 (circulated) by the Acting Director of Finance which informed the Committee of the Finance Department's performance in relation to statutory performance indicators for the period 1 April 1997 to 31 March 1998.

STATUTORY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS 1997/98

9. There was submitted a report dated 4 September 1998 (circulated) by the Chief Executive on the Statutory Performance Indicator information for the financial year 1997/98 in terms of the Accounts Commission 1996 Direction including arrangements for publication.

It was agreed:

- (i) to note the Statutory Performance Indicators 1997/98;
- (ii) to note that the reference to "not provided" within the Social Work Service Section of Appendix I be changed to "nil provision";
- (iii) to the publication of the finalised Statutory Performance Indicators 1997/98 in the local Press; and
- (iv) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

ADMINISTRATION OF CUMNOCK MUNICIPAL BANK AND CUMNOCK AND DOON VALLEY MINERALS TRUST (Item 4.2, Page 3445)

10. There was submitted a report dated 3 September 1998 (circulated) by the Acting Director of Finance to advise the Committee of the role of the Director of Finance in relation to the above bodies.

It was agreed:

- (i) to note that there was no conflict of interest for the Director of Finance or for the Council or for Members of the Council; and
- (ii) that a full report would be submitted to a future Committee on appointments of Members and Officers to external bodies detailing the funding and non-pecuniary support provided to external bodies.

BEST VALUE: 1998 APPRAISAL PROCESS

11. There was submitted a report dated 3 September 1998 (circulated) by the Chief Executive which advised the Committee of notification received from the Scottish Office dealing with the development of Best Value including the 1998 Appraisal Procedure and which highlighted its implications for the Council's Implementation Plan.

It was agreed:

- (i) to note receipt of the Scottish Office Circular SODD12/98 which set out the 1998/99 Appraisal round for Best Value;
- (ii) to note the steps being taken by the Best Value Officer Implementation Group in response to the requirements of the Circular;
- (iii) that no submission be made to the Scottish Office on the terms of the updated Best Value Implementation Plan until approval is given by the Best Value Sub-Committee;
- (iv) to note the sample review to be undertaken by the Scottish Office to include special education needs, criminal justice services and committee administration (central support);
- (v) that no submission be made to the Scottish Office on a new Best Value Implementation Plan after approval is given by the Best Value Sub-Committee; and
- (vi) otherwise to note the terms of the report.

Councillor Brailsford left the meeting at this point.

A STRATEGY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE: CONSULTATION

12. There was submitted a report dated 26 August 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Education on proposals to consult with young people on the Council's Strategy for Young People: Investing in Our Future.

It was agreed:

- (i) that Members be informed of the proposals to consult with young people;
- (ii) to the proposal for the consultation as outlined in the report;
- (iii) that a report on the outcome of the consultation be submitted to the December meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee; and
- (iv) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

SOCIAL INCLUSION PARTNERSHIPS

13. There was submitted a report dated 26 August 1998 (circulated) by the Chief Executive on the Social Inclusion Initiative being taken by the Scottish Office and the opportunities which it created for East Ayrshire Council.

It was agreed:

- (i) that Officers consult with potential partners in a Social Inclusion Partnership; and
- (ii) that Officers prepare a draft submission for consideration by Council on 24 September 1998 prior to submission to the Scottish Office.

NEW AMBITIONS FOR OUR COUNTRY: A NEW CONTRACT FOR WELFARE

14. There was submitted a report dated 4 September 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Social Work which sought approval for the Council's response to the Green Paper on Welfare Reform.

It was agreed:

- (i) to approve the Council response to the Green Paper on Welfare Reform shown attached to the report; and
- (ii) otherwise to note the content of the report.

Councillor Brailsford rejoined the meeting during discussion of the above item.

THE COUNCIL'S SUPPORT FOR THE SCOTLAND FOR CHILDREN CAMPAIGN

15. There was submitted a report dated 2 July 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Social Work which provided information on the Scotland for Children Campaign and which sought Committee approval for the formal support for the Campaign from East Ayrshire Council.

It was agreed:

- (i) to support the Scotland for Children Campaign; and
- (ii) that the Chief Executive sign the Campaign Statement of Support.

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE

16. There was submitted a report dated 8 July 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Social Work which sought approval for the establishment of an Officer East Ayrshire Child Protection Committee.

It was agreed:

- (i) that the Chief Executive take the necessary action to establish an Officer East Ayrshire Child Protection Committee; and
- (ii) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

The meeting terminated at 1120 hrs.